

# LEVELER

## E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

**Issue 26      September 16, 2013**

**Grassroots Public Advocacy for the Protection, Restoration and Conservation  
of Lake Ontario Beaches and Riparian Property**

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## Call To Action

- Call the Governor's office and demand that he come to the south shore to view the area before making any decision on this plan. His telephone number is: **(518) 474-8390**.
  - Call your elected representatives. A list of contacts for the NYS Representatives is listed on the LORA web site: <http://www.loranet.org/officials.htm> . Ask them to call the Governor.
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### **Open Letter to Senators Schumer and Gillibrand:**

Dear Senators Schumer and Gillibrand:

The residents along the south shore of Lake Ontario and the Lower Niagara River are supported in their fight to maintain their properties against the proposed new regulation plan of the International Joint Commission (IJC) by all six counties along the lakeshore, the elected State representatives from that area and the City of Rochester.

Additionally, Wayne County has received support for its resolution against this plan from nineteen counties of Western New York. Even the U.S. Dept of Transportation has concerns about this plan.

Many commercial navigation agencies have expressed grave concerns regarding Plan 2014's high water levels, which would have the potential to increase flows in the St. Lawrence River, and the Plan's low water levels, which could affect the amount a ship can carry.

The Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance (LORA) believes that the IJC's aspirational goals of environmental and recreational boating improvement should be given consideration but not equal footing. Yet LORA maintains that the IJC's lack of study into unintended consequences is obvious and has been demonstrated many times through "the LEVELER", the Minority Report of the LOSL (Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence) Study, and peer review of that study by the National Research Council and the Royal Society of Canada.

With respect to commercial navigation, there could be unintended consequences as high flows could compromise the control of a ship, which could lead to a blockage in the seaway system affecting the function of the seaway or even leading to an environmental spill.

The shipping interests have reported that, at the low range of water levels, they would need to lighten the load of their ships. This would result in less cargo containers per ship, which would lead to increased truck transportation, increased fuel costs, and associated environmental impacts from the burning of more diesel fuels. Additionally, this could lead to increased food costs and other associated related expenses to the consumer.

From a property viewpoint, if the properties along the shore are devalued or destroyed, the result will be that inland property owners will be forced to pay higher insurance premiums and property taxes to maintain services provided at all government levels.

We ask that you step up and join the fight against this plan and the disproportionate damages it will cause to your constituents along the shore, since the IJC and its Working Group are operating in a closed manner with only the environmental interests at the table.

Please help us. We need your voice!

We thank you very much for your attention, consideration and concern.

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Dear Neighbors:

Please make the effort to call Senator Schumer and Gillibrand to voice your concerns.

Contact info:

**Senator Charles Schumer**

Email: [https://www.schumer.senate.gov/Contact/contact\\_chuck.cfm](https://www.schumer.senate.gov/Contact/contact_chuck.cfm)

Washington, DC Office: 202-224-6542

Rochester Office: 585-263-5866

Syracuse Office: 315-423-5471

Buffalo Office: 716-846-4111

**Senator Kirsten Gillibrand**

Email: <http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/>

Rochester Office: 585-263-6250

Syracuse Office: 315-448-0470

Buffalo Office: 716-854-9725

Lowville Office: 315-376-6118

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**Who Is the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance (LORA)?**

- 1) Every property and recreational boat owner.
- 2) The people that make LORA work: All are volunteers.
  - Jack Steinkamp – Wayne and Cayuga Counties - Founder of LORA
  - Dr. Dan Barletta – Monroe County – Distribution and Writer
  - Henry Stewart, Esq. – Monroe and Wayne Counties – Newsletter Editor
  - Max Streibel – Formerly of Monroe County - Consultant
  - Tony McKenna – Niagara and Orleans Counties – Engineering Research
  - Jim Jerome – Oswego and Jefferson Counties – Consultant
  - Dr. Frank Sciremammano – Consultant
  - Rich Henry – Eastern Lake Ontario - Contributing reporters
  - Rich Roach – Lower Niagara River - Contributing reporters